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IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 10, 11, and 16, AMEND claims 1, 3, 4, 9 and 17 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A method for setting up an H.323 or SIP connection from a source network to a connection destination which is external to the source network and is identified by logical address information, comprising:
 - conveying H.323 or SIP connection setup signaling from a first gateway device associated with the source network to a second gateway device via a first transit network;
 - conveying H.323 or SIP connection setup signaling from the second gateway device to a third gateway device via a second transit network, the third gateway being associated with a communication network which is routed to the connection destination, where
 - the first gateway device uses at least one section of the logical address information to derive a first transport address which identifies the second gateway device in the first transit network, the first transport address being used to convey the H.323 or SIP connection setup signaling to the second gateway device, and
 - the second gateway device uses at least one further section of the logical address information to derive a second transport address which identifies the third gateway device in the second transit network, the second transport address being used to convey the H.323 or SIP connection setup signaling to the third gateway device wherein
 - the source network has an H.323 or SIP gatekeeper for controlling H.323 or SIP connections internal to the source network,
 - the first gateway device has a first H.323 or SIP interface to the source network and a second H.323 or SIP interface to the first transit network, and
 - the first H.323 or SIP interface is designed for operation in a gatekeeper-controlled H.323 or SIP mode, and the second H.323 or SIP interface is designed for simultaneous operation in a gatekeeperless H.323 or SIP mode.

2. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1,

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wherein the first gateway device derives the first transport address from a different section of the logical address information than used by the second gateway device to derive the second transport address.

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the H.323 or SIP connection setup signaling ~~transmits-cause~~ a transport address to be transmitted back to the source network, the transport address identifying the transmission destination to the source network, and the result of this is that payload data to be transmitted over the H.323 or SIP connection are transmitted on a direct route from the source network to the transmission destination using the transmitted transport address-.

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the H.323 or SIP connection setup signaling ~~transmits-cause~~ a transport address to be transmitted back to the source network, the transport address identifying the transmission destination to the source network, and the result of this is that payload data to be transmitted over the H.323 or SIP connection are transmitted on a direct route from the source network to the transmission destination using the transmitted transport address-.

5. (previously presented) The method of as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the first transit network is identical to the second transit network .

6. (previously presented) The method of as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the logical address information comprises a dialing code, a service number and/or a terminal call number.

7. (previously presented) The method of as claimed claim 1,
wherein the logical address information comprises an email address, an alias address and/or a URL .

8. (previously presented) The method of as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the transport addresses are valid on the network layer of the OSI reference model.

9. (currently amended) A communication system for setting up an H.323 or SIP connection from a source network to a connection destination which is external to the source

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network and is identified by logical address information, comprising:

a first gateway device for conveying H.323 or SIP connection setup signaling from the source network to a first transit network ;

a second gateway device for conveying the H.323 or SIP connection setup signaling from the first transit network to a second transit network ; and

a third gateway device for conveying the H.323 or SIP connection setup signaling from the second transit network to a communication network which is routed to the connection destination, wherein

in the first gateway device, at least one section of the logical address information has an associated transport address identifying the second gateway device to the first transit network, and, in the second gateway device, at least one further section of the logical address information has an associated transport address identifying the third gateway device to the second transit network, and where

the gateway devices have a respective switching devices for deriving transport addresses from the logical address information and for conveying H.323 or SIP connection setup signaling using the derived transport addresses wherein

the source network has an H.323 or SIP gatekeeper for controlling H.323 or SIP connections internal to the source network.

the first gateway device has a first H.323 or SIP interface to the source network and a second H.323 or SIP interface to the first transit network, and

the first H.323 or SIP interface is designed for operation in a gatekeeper-controlled H.323 or SIP mode, and the second H.323 or SIP interface is designed for simultaneous operation in a gatekeeperless H.323 or SIP mode.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first transit network is identical to the second transit network .

13. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the logical address information comprises a dialing code, a service number and/or a terminal call number.

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14. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed claim 9, wherein the logical address information comprises an email address, an alias address and/or a URL .

15. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the transport addresses are valid on the network layer of the OSI reference model.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The communication system as claimed in claim ~~16~~12, wherein the logical address information comprises a dialing code, a service number and/or a terminal call number.

18. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed claim 17, wherein the logical address information comprises an email address, an alias address and/or a URL .

19. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the transport addresses are valid on the network layer of the OSI reference model.